

REMARKS

The Office action mailed on 21 May 2003 (Paper No. 4) has been carefully considered. Allowance of claims 6 thru 9 is appreciated.

The specification is being amended to correct minor errors and improve form. Claims 4, 5 and 11 are being canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 1 thru 3, 6 thru 10, 12 and 13 are being amended. Thus, claims 1 thru 3, 6 thru 10, 12 and 13 are pending in the application.

On page 2 of the Office action, the Examiner rejected claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. §102 for alleged anticipation by Cozar *et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 6,420,054. On pages 3-4 of the Office action, the Examiner rejected claims 3 thru 5 under 35 U.S.C. §103 for alleged unpatentability over Cozar *et al.* '054 and Kume *et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 5,111,107. Since claim 10 is discussed (at the top of page 4 of the Office action) in connection with the rejection of claims 3 and 5, it is presumed that the Examiner intended to list claim 10 as rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103. For the reasons stated below, it is submitted that the invention recited in the claims, as now amended, is distinguishable from the prior art cited by the Examiner so as to preclude rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 or §103.

On page 4 of the Office action, the Examiner objected to claims 11 thru 13 for

dependency upon a rejected base claim, but stated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Since claim 10 is being amended to include the recitation of allowable dependent claim 11, independent claim 10 and dependent claims 12 and 13 should now be in condition for allowance.

Independent claim 1 is being amended to recite the mask of the color selection apparatus as comprising a plurality of strips extending in a direction of the long axis and spaced part from each other by a predetermined distance, beam guide holes arranged in a plurality of lines extending in the direction of the long axis, each line of beam guide holes being disposed between a respective pair of strips immediately adjacent to said each line of beam guide holes, and real bridges disposed between each of the strips, each of the real bridges being disposed along one of the lines of the beam guide holes and between a respective pair of immediately adjacent beam guide holes in said one of the lines of beam guide holes.

The latter recitations correspond to the recitations in dependent claims 4 and 5, which are being canceled. Moreover, the prior art does not disclose or suggest the color selection apparatus as now recited in amended claim 1.

On page 3 of the Office action, claims 3 thru 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103

based on Cozar *et al.* '054 in combination with Kume *et al.* '107. The primary reference, Cozar *et al.* '054, discloses a masking device for a color cathode-ray tube (CRT) with a flat screen of the type comprising a support frame for a tensioned shadowmask. As seen in Figure 1 of the patent, the mask 1 has holes 2 running from upper edge 6 to upper edge 6'. However, as admitted by the Examiner on page 3 of the Office action, Cozar *et al.* '054 does not disclose or suggest a plurality of strips extending in a direction of the long axis and spaced apart from each other by a predetermined distance, as now recited in claim 1.

Therefore, the Examiner cites Kume *et al.* '107, and alleges that Kume *et al.* '107 discloses “a mask with strips (bridges in between holes)” (quoting from page 3, line 19 of the Office action). The Examiner then alleges that one of ordinary skill in the art, as of the date of the invention, would have found it obvious to seek and incorporate the disclosure of Kume *et al.* '107 into a modification of the disclosure of Cozar *et al.* '054. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

First, it should be noted that there is nothing within the disclosure of Cozar *et al.* '054, and the Examiner has not cited any portion thereof, which would motivate a person of ordinary skill in the art to seek the disclosure of Kume *et al.* '107 for the purpose of modifying Cozar *et al.* '054. That is to say, since Cozar *et al.* '054 does not disclose a plurality of strips spaced apart from each other (as admitted by the Examiner on page 3 of

the Office action), there would be no motivation to a person of ordinary skill in the art to seek the disclosure of such strips in any other patent, such as Kume *et al.* '107. However, even if one of ordinary skill in the art were so motivated, the arrangement resulting from combining Cozar *et al.* '054 with Kume *et al.* '107 would not correspond to the invention, as recited in claim 1.

Specifically, if one were to incorporate the ribbon shaped grid elements 6 of Kume *et al.* '107 into the mask 1 of Figure 1 of Cozar *et al.* '054, the result would be that the ribbon shaped grid elements 6 of Figure 1 of Kume *et al.* '107, which are oriented along the short axis in Kume *et al.* '107, would be oriented along the short axis of the mask 1 of Figure 1 of Cozar *et al.* '054. As a result, the ribbon shaped grid elements would run in a direction perpendicular to the holes 2 of Figure 1 of Cozar *et al.* '054, thereby rendering the masking device of Cozar *et al.* '054 non-operational.

On page 3 of the Office action, the Examiner alleges that the “limitations of curved supporting members and mask with stripes are not deemed patentable since the applicant's disclosure fails to show such limitations to solve any problems or to yield any unobvious advantage that is not within the scope of the teachings applied” (quoting from page 3, lines 14-18 of the Office action). However, the specification of the present application makes it clear that the color selection apparatus comprising the combination of a mask and a frame, wherein the mask is tensioned in a direction of the long axis while

being supported by the frame, and wherein the mask comprises the combination of a plurality of strips, beam guide holes, and real bridges with the other functions and limitations recited in claim 1, has various advantages over the prior art. These features of the invention and the advantages derived therefrom are described in the specification at page 4, line 1-page 6, line 7. As stated therein, the primary advantage is that the electron beams generated by the present invention land on correct phosphors of the phosphor screen. Another discussion of the advantages of the present invention can be found at page 15, lines 12-21 of the present application.

As an alternative argument, the Examiner alleges that "Kume discloses a mask with supporting members that are curved and a mask with strips (bridges in between holes)" (quoting from page 3, lines 18-19 of the Office action). However, a review of the disclosure of Kume *et al.* '107 does not reveal any disclosure or suggestion of the provision of real bridges disposed between each of the strips, each of the real bridges being disposed along one of the lines of the beam guide holes and between a respective pair of immediately adjacent beam guide holes in said one of the lines of said beam guide holes, as now recited in independent claim 1. In fact, the only feature disclosed in Kume *et al.* '107 is the ribbon shaped grid lines 6 (*see* Figure 1 of Kume *et al.* '107). Thus, no holes, or bridges between holes, are disclosed or suggested in Kume *et al.* '107.

To summarize, neither Cozar *et al.* '054 nor Kume *et al.* '107, taken alone or in

combination, discloses or suggests all of the features of the present invention, as recited in amended independent claim 1. Moreover, even if some of the features of the present invention were disclosed in Cozar *et al.* '054 and other features of the invention were disclosed in Kume *et al.* '107, there is nothing contained within the disclosure of Cozar *et al.* '054 (and the Examiner has not cited any portion of that patent) which would motivate a person of ordinary skill in the art to seek and incorporate the disclosure of Kume *et al.* '107 into a modification of the disclosure of Cozar *et al.* '054. Thus, the combination of references cited by the Examiner constitutes an invalid combination under 35 U.S.C. §103.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the claims of this application are in condition for allowance, and early issuance thereof is solicited. Should any questions remain unresolved, the Examiner is requested to telephone Applicant's attorney.

No fee is incurred by this Amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. E. Bushnell", is written over a horizontal line.

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